



World Alliance for Citizen Participation

A Free Weekly Electronic Newsletter Promoting Civic Existence, Expression & Engagement

Please send contributions, comments and questions to editor@civicus.org.

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ABOUT e-CIVICUS

The CIVICUS weekly electronic publication is keeping tens of thousands of people informed of the developments taking place in civil society, the factors that are affecting them and the impact they are having on creating an informed and knowledgeable civil society.

e-CIVICUS WELCOMES CONTRIBUTIONS

e-CIVICUS offers a useful channel through which you and your organisation can share your news, publicise your events and articulate the issues you face. Please send us your contributions by Monday for publication in the coming week to editor@civicus.org. All contributions must focus on civil society issues or have a civil society angle. To read

FROM THE DESK OF CIVICUS' SECRETARY GENERAL



Dear friends and colleagues,

CIVICUS participated in the International Conference on Impact Evaluation, which was held in Cairo recently. We feel that a better understanding of the 'impact' of our work is indeed crucial to the success and efficiency of our organizations. This issue of e-CIVICUS provides three views on the important subject, including one from my colleague Katsuji Imata...

Impact for What? – Cairo Conference on Impact Evaluation

By Katsuji Imata, Deputy Secretary General of CIVICUS

These days, there is no question in the development discourse that one of the key words is 'impact.' The 2005 Paris Declaration and the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) speak of managing for results. "We will be judged by the impacts that our collective efforts have on the lives of poor people." But what is 'impact' after all and how do we measure it? We are told by our donors, evaluation consultants and others that 'impact' is about long term results. 'Output' refers to an immediate result and there is 'outcome' as a medium term result that will be achieved when all outputs are laid out. The next in line in the logical order is 'impact.' You go up the causal chain to reach the highest point which we call 'impact,' and that is what development is all about.

[Read more...](#)

We are also extremely excited about the launch of our French issue e-CIVICUS, which will also be a weekly publication, beginning before the end of the month. Please do let us know if you – or your colleagues – would like to receive it by emailing subscriptions@civicus.org marked 'French edition of e-CIVICUS'.

With gratitude, faith and solidarity,

Ingrid Srinath



Impact Evaluation for Better Development? – Notes on the Cairo Conference

By Zenda Ofir, Past President, African Evaluation Association (AfrEA)

Impact evaluation is contested terrain. Over recent years the focus on development results and 'evidence-based policy-making' has led to a strong drive among aid agencies and other development organisations to do more impact evaluation to help determine 'what works' in development. This has been accompanied by a strong lobby for quantitative data, and for

the contribution guidelines, [click here](#).

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Civil Society Watch Monthly Bulletin

The CIVICUS e-newsletter Civil Society Watch Monthly Bulletin is an action-oriented newsletter distributed to over 7,400 people, featuring insightful interviews, updates on threats to civil society, and analyses of current situations. Read more at www.civicus.org.

'rigorous' methods to determine attribution (which is regarded as the core of impact evaluation). The prevailing, narrow definition of 'rigor' used by this lobby has meant that randomised control trials (RCTs) have sometimes been referred to as the 'gold standard' for this purpose, followed by a 'hierarchy' of acceptable experimental and quasi-experimental methods. *For details, [click here](#).*

Challenges of Evaluating Networks – A roundtable session at the Impact Evaluation Conference

By Priyanthi Fernando, Executive Director Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA)

As both a coordinator and an evaluator of networks I have for sometime been frustrated at the lack of understanding about this organisational form or way of working despite the growing popularity of networks in the world of development policy and practice. The proposal for a roundtable at the Perspectives on Impact Evaluation Conference was presented to from this perspective. *For details, [click here](#).*

Letters to the Editor

e-CIVICUS publishes selected correspondence from its readers - and visitors to the CIVICUS website - in a new section called 'Letters to the Editor'. Please keep such letters short (preferred length of 50 to 200 words) and mention 'Letters to the Editor' in your message or heading. These may be sent to editor@civicus.org

CIVICUS Poll Question

This week's question:

The launch of the French edition of e-CIVICUS later this month would be

- a. Super
- b. Useful
- c. I don't understand French

To answer the question, [click here](#).

JOIN e-CIVICUS - BECOME A CONTRIBUTOR

e-CIVICUS keeps tens of thousands of people and organisations informed of the many developments taking place in civil society around the world. This e-publication seeks to encourage and amplify the voices of those struggling for a more just world. As a subscriber, you know the value e-CIVICUS can bring to your work.

Why don't you suggest to your friends to register for a free subscription? They can send an email to subscriptions@civicus.org or fill out the subscription form [here](#). Alternatively, please forward their email addresses to us and we'll contact them on your behalf. Please send your contributions by Monday every week to editor@civicus.org. All contributions must be focused on civil society issues or have a civil society angle.

CIVIL SOCIETY NEWS

Political violence becoming commonplace in Russia

Source: The Other Russia

CIVICUS channel on YouTube:
'Time 2 Act' Go to YouTube, [click here](#).



CIVICUS launches its 1
for 1 membership
campaign

Are you one of the
missing 85?

One CIVICUS member for every UN
member state, that's the goal of
CIVICUS' 1 for 1 Membership
campaign, [click here](#).

On the night from March 31st to April 1st, 2009, Lev Alexandrovich Ponomarev, a former deputy in the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR and later the RF [Russian Federation] State Duma, was brutally attacked. [Ponomarev], a public figure and democrat widely renowned in the country and past its borders has an outstanding and incontestable reputation in the human rights community. *For details, [click here](#).*

A Possible Vision: Social harmony

By Asaf Zilberberg

This short article is about a possible social vision. The vision is that different people can live together in a dynamic social harmony. I think and believe that each and every one of us has the right to live their private life as they want, as long as they don't harm others. Each and every one of us can imagine how they would feel if something they enjoy doing (and doesn't harm others) was forbidden. Imagine that for a moment. This is the beginning (but not the end) of building a society that would be nice and fun to live in. To build such society we need to find the dynamic balance between equal opportunities and recognizing (and accepting) the different (in abilities and wills) between people. This will allow the difference between people to co-exist without causing conflicts and will allow us to make some social reforms that are much needed. I think that the more we are aware to ourselves and the surround us, the more we realise that many of the things that bother us are caused by us and by our actions and what we allow others (sometimes by our silence) to do. This is the reason that I believe that we can change (and even better - improve) the things that bother us. *For details, [click here](#).*



Obama creates post for international women's issues

Source: Google News

US President Barack Obama announced the creation of a new foreign policy position designed to tackle global women's issues. Obama named Melanne Verveer, an aide in former president Bill Clinton's administration, as ambassador-at-large for international women's issues. She will serve at the State Department under Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. *For details, [click here](#).*

China pledges to improve human rights - with Chinese characteristics

Source: Telegraph.co.za

China released its first "action plan" on human rights, but made clear that its citizens' right to earn a living, educate their children and see a doctor would come before Western ideas of freedom of speech, assembly and a fair trial. *For details, [click here](#).*

South Africa: Women's representation in parliament set to rise to 45 percent

Source: Gender Links

South Africa is likely to witness a 12 percent increase in women's representation in parliament from 33 percent to 45 percent, according to a report released by Gender Links on the eve of the April 2009 elections. This would be the largest increase in women's representation since the first democratic elections in 1994 in which women's representation jumped from 2.7 percent to 27 percent. *For details, [click here](#).*

IAC reports democratic backsliding and improvement in over a dozen countries

Source: Democracy Coalition project

In March, the International Advisory Committee (IAC) for the Community of Democracies Invitations Process issued its recommendations on which governments merit invitation to the V Ministerial Meeting of the Community of Democracies to be held in Portugal in July 2009. These recommendations were transmitted to the government of Portugal, the Chair of the Convening Group of the Community of Democracies (CD), in Lisbon in late March. *For details, [click here](#).*

GET INVOLVED!

The CIVICUS Civil Society Index Blog is now online!

Keep abreast of recent activities within the CSI team and program. Visit <http://civilsocietyindex.wordpress.com> and share the link with your colleagues, networks and stakeholders. This new blog will provide CSI partners as well as interested parties all over the world a more informal and interactive way of giving and getting updates during this implementation phase, and will serve as a hub of information for you to disseminate, access and interact with throughout the project. *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more...](#)

GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS UPDATE

Helen Clark appointed UNDP administrator

Source: UNELECTIONS.org

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has appointed Helen Clark of New Zealand as the next Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Ban's spokesperson announced his decision on 26 March 2009, and the General Assembly confirmed Clark for a four-year term on 31 March 2009. The Administrator position is at the level of Under-Secretary-General in the UN scheme. Clark was the Prime Minister of New Zealand from 1999-2008. She will be the first woman to hold the position of UNDP Administrator. *For details, [click here](#).*



Addressing world crisis requires a G192, not the G20

By Kumi Naidoo

For those of us focused on eradicating poverty and inequality, the greatest risk about the G20 summit was that the richest countries would use the global financial downturn to cut back on aid commitments and put the interests of their own countries first. This would spell disaster for the millions of people suffering from rising hunger and climate change and living in deep poverty across the developing world. *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more...](#)

PROFILES

DONOR: The Conservation, Food & Health Foundation

Incorporated in 1985, the Conservation, Food and Health Foundation seeks to promote the conservation of natural resources, improve the production and distribution of food, and improve health in the developing world. The foundation helps build capacity within developing countries in its three areas of interest with grants that support research or projects that solve specific problems. The foundation supports projects that demonstrate strong local leadership, promote professional development in the conservation, agricultural, and health sciences; develop the capacity of local organisations; and address a particular problem in the field. It prefers to support projects addressing under-funded issues and geographic areas. The Foundation's grant making process is focused upon projects implemented in developing countries. NGOs from these countries or international organisations working in the Third World can apply and receive grants from the Foundation. *For details, [click here](#).*

MEMBER: The Development Resource Centre (DRC)

The Development Resource Centre (DRC) was established in 1993 as a small library focussed on development issues. They are now Aotearoa-New Zealand's leading provider of development resources and global education services. Their mission is informing and educating people to take action to create a just world. They define a Just World as a world where human rights are upheld and respected, where poverty is no longer tolerated, development is people-centred, holistic and

sustainable, and where we all recognise the interconnectivity of our lives and the world that we live in. They work towards this through two programmes: Dev-Zone (www.dev-zone.org) which provides information services, including an on-line directory of development research; and The Global Education Centre (www.globaled.org.nz) which provides resources and workshops for the formal (primary and secondary teachers) and non-formal (community educators and young people) education sectors. The DRC is core funded by NZAID, New Zealand's International Aid and Development Agency. *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more profiles...](#)

BOOKS, REPORTS & RESOURCES

New BRIDGE Cutting Edge pack: Gender and governance

Source: BRIDGE

Governance processes – with their emphasis on principles of accountability, transparency, responsiveness and inclusiveness – should be a means to social transformation. But despite this potential, they are failing to deliver on gender equality, and women are having to struggle to get their voices heard and needs met. This Cutting Edge Pack maps out persistent obstacles to gender equality in governance and offers possible ways forward - including promoting gender balance in positions of authority, making rights central to governance institutions and processes at all levels, and building political will for change. *For details, [click here](#).*

The Civil Society Digest

The Civil Society Digest is a media website for civil society that aims to: Promote a more conducive information environment for Civil Society activity in the development arena; to raise awareness of Civil Society issues and activities among the Ghanaian population. To disseminate widely relevant & timely Civil Society information; to serve as a platform of information exchange for Civil Society agents, MDAs, development partners, citizenry, etc; to advocate, promote and guide policy development, change and adoption, implementation and monitoring; to promote the development agenda. *For details, [click here](#).*

CONFERENCES & EVENTS



National Volunteer Week

Australia wide, 11-17 May 2009

National Volunteer Week is the largest celebration of volunteers and volunteerism in Australia, and provides an opportunity to highlight the role of volunteers in our communities and to say thank you to the more than 5 million Australians who volunteer. This year, more than ever, the role of volunteers across Australia has been highlighted given the devastating effects of the recent bushfires and floods around Australia. Add to that the unsung work of many thousands of volunteers who contribute to the well being of Australia in so many ways and you realise that Australia's volunteers make an extraordinary contribution to the nation. There are many ways you can get involved whether you are a volunteer, not-for-profit organisation, or a company. *For details, [click here](#).*

International Conference on Cultural Intelligence

Southern Sun, Sandton, South Africa, 25-27 May 2009

The international conference will bring together international expertise and groundbreaking research from across all continents to dissect and put into perspective the value of cultural intelligence in and out of the boardroom and the workplace, and how that can boost the topline and bottomline of organisations. Cultural intelligence (CQ) is a new realm of intelligence that has vast relevance to the

increasingly globalised and diverse workplace. *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more...](#)

CALL FOR PAPERS, SUBMISSIONS, SURVEYS & NOMINATIONS

Nominate your project for the BBC World Challenge

Source: BBC

The World Challenge is a global competition aimed at finding projects or small businesses from around the world that have shown enterprise and innovation at a grass roots level. It is about championing and rewarding projects and business which really make a difference. The awards are broadcast annually on BBC World News. *For details, [click here](#).*

Call for nominations - John Humphrey Freedom Award 2009

Deadline: 30 April 2009

Rights & Democracy (International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development) presents the John Humphrey Award each year to an organisation or individual from any region of the world, including Canada, for outstanding achievement in the promotion of human rights and democratic development. The Award consists of a grant of USD 30,000, and a speaking tour of Canadian cities to help increase awareness of the recipient's human rights work. It is named in honour of the late John Peters Humphrey, the Canadian human rights law professor who prepared the first draft of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more...](#)

APPOINTMENTS

This week, new civil society job openings have been added to the CIVICUS website. Please [click here](#).

Should you wish to publish a **New Vacancy**, please click on [Add job](#). Please add an expiry date for applications.

JOBS OF THE WEEK

Civil Society Index Programme Officer

Application Deadline: 08 May 2009

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

For details, [click here](#).

Researcher

Application Deadline: 30 April 2009

Human Rights Watch, Women's Rights Division

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

For details, [click here](#).

Coordinator, Development & Communications

Application Deadline: 30 April 2009

GEMS of Hope

Location: Toronto, Canada

For details, [click here](#).

Media Relations Coordinator

Application Deadline: 21 April 2009

HelpAge International

Location: London, UK

For details, [click here](#).

Caucasus Programme Director

Application Deadline: 30 April 2009

Conciliation Resources (CR)

Location: London, UK

For details, [click here](#).

The world's largest anti poverty alliance, the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP), is seeking to recruit three full-time positions at its Global Secretariat.

GCAP Campaign Director

For details, [click here](#).

GCAP Global Secretariat Assistant

For details, [click here](#).

These unique and challenging roles require dynamism and the flexibility to work within a diverse global anti-poverty alliance. The successful candidates can be located anywhere that enables them to work in multiple time zones using Skype, e mail and telephone to stay in touch.

See www.whiteband.org/about-gcap/jobs for full job descriptions. Interested candidates should send their CV and a covering note describing their suitability for the position to: rajiv@whiteband.org

CONTACT e-CIVICUS

e-CIVICUS is a free weekly online publication keeping tens of thousands of people, organisations and programmes informed of the many developments and factors that affect civil society and their impact on creating a more just world.

We value your comments and suggestions. Please send these to the Editorial Team at editor@civicus.org.

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